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ACTION MEMORANDUM

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TO: P - Michael Armacost
FROM: EUR - John Kelly Acting
SUBJECT: The Raoul Wallenberg Case

Under Secretary has seen.

DATE: 12 JAN 1985

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to recommend that the White House issue a statement commemorating the 40th anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance.

DISCUSSION

January 17 will be the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat in Budapest who with funding by the United States War Refugee Board, undertook a mission to save Hungarian Jews. Between March 1944 and the time of his disappearance, Wallenberg labored courageously in saving the lives of up to 100,000 Jews. The last confirmed sighting of Wallenberg was on January 17, 1945 when he and his driver went to meet with the Soviet military command to discuss relief efforts.

The only Soviet explanation of Wallenberg's disappearance was provided by Vice Foreign Minister Gromyko in 1957 when he informed the Swedes that Wallenberg had died of a heart attack in Lubyanka Prison on July 17, 1947. Despite this "final" Soviet answer, there have been persistent reports over the decades that Wallenberg may still be alive, and there has been active Congressional and public interest in his case.

In July 1979, the United States informed the Soviets of our interest in the case and requested details clarifying Wallenberg's fate. The Soviets responded in February 1980 that all information about Wallenberg had already been provided and the matter was closed. In 1981, the President signed into law legislation making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE		IS/FP/ICDR		Date: 12/13/87	
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The Swedish government's position has been that this is a Swedish problem and that Sweden has the lead role. We agree and have actively cooperated with the Swedes in sharing information. We, of course, continue to express our own concerns to the Soviets.

There continues to be significant interest in the Wallenberg case on the part of Congress and the public. The NSC, therefore, has requested that we prepare a draft White House statement (attached) commemorating the 40th anniversary of Wallenberg's disappearance. The statement will be released on January 17. At the NSC's request, we also plan to issue a Department statement providing additional information on the Wallenberg case.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That you approve the attached Platt-McFarlane memorandum conveying a proposed White House statement commemorating the 40th anniversary of Wallenberg's disappearance.

Approve MR 1/12/85 Disapprove _____

Attachments:

Tab A - Platt-McFarlane Memorandum;
Proposed White House Statement

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Drafted:EUR/SOV/SOBI:KMhillas *KMH/TAU*
 January 10, 1985 #0357n
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